

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

With the present amendment, a formal error in claim 1 has been amended.

The Examiner rejected claim(s) 1 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Odoni, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,722,548 (Odoni). He also rejected claims 2-4 and 10-13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Odoni in view of Voelker, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,877,308 (Voelker).

It is respectfully submitted that Odoni is not prior art against the subject application. The U.S. filing date of the Odoni reference is May 8, 2003. The subject application is based on German priority application DE 102 60 703 filed December 23, 2002. It is therefore further respectfully submitted that a certified translation of the priority German application DE 102 60 703 which is submitted herewith in accordance with M.P.E.P. 201.15 overcomes Odoni et al. as a reference.

The submission of a certified translation for overcoming Odoni as a reference does not constitute an acknowledgement that Odoni anticipates or

makes obvious the present invention, as defined by Claims 1-4, 7, and 10-13. In fact, applicants believe that the present invention, as defined by these claims, is patentable over Odoni. The certified translation of the priority German application is being submitted in order to expedite the prosecution of this application.

Allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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